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32, South Street,  
Bridport.

December, 1945.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
TO THE BRIDPORT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1944  
INCLUDING STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD 1938 - 1944

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	Adam Armit, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor. (Temporary).	Charles Lowe, A.R.S.I.
Veterinary Surgeon (Part-Time)	K.I. Marshall, M.R.C.V.S.
Clerk to the Medical Officer.	Miss A.M. Johnson.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres ...	... ... ... ... ...	32,150
Registrar General's Estimate of Population	... ...	7,073
Number of Inhabited Houses, according to Rate Books, as at end of 1944	... ...	2,469
Rateable Value	... ... ... ...	£ 32,780
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	... ... ...	£ 139

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	M.	F.	
All Births	46	55	Birth Rate per 1,000 resident
Legitimate	41	52	population = 14.28
Illegitimate	5	3	

Total Births ..... 101

<u>Still Births</u>	M.	F.	
All Still Births	3	2	Still Birth Rate per 1,000
Legitimate	2	2	resident population = 0.71
Illegitimate	1	-	

Total Still Births ..... 5

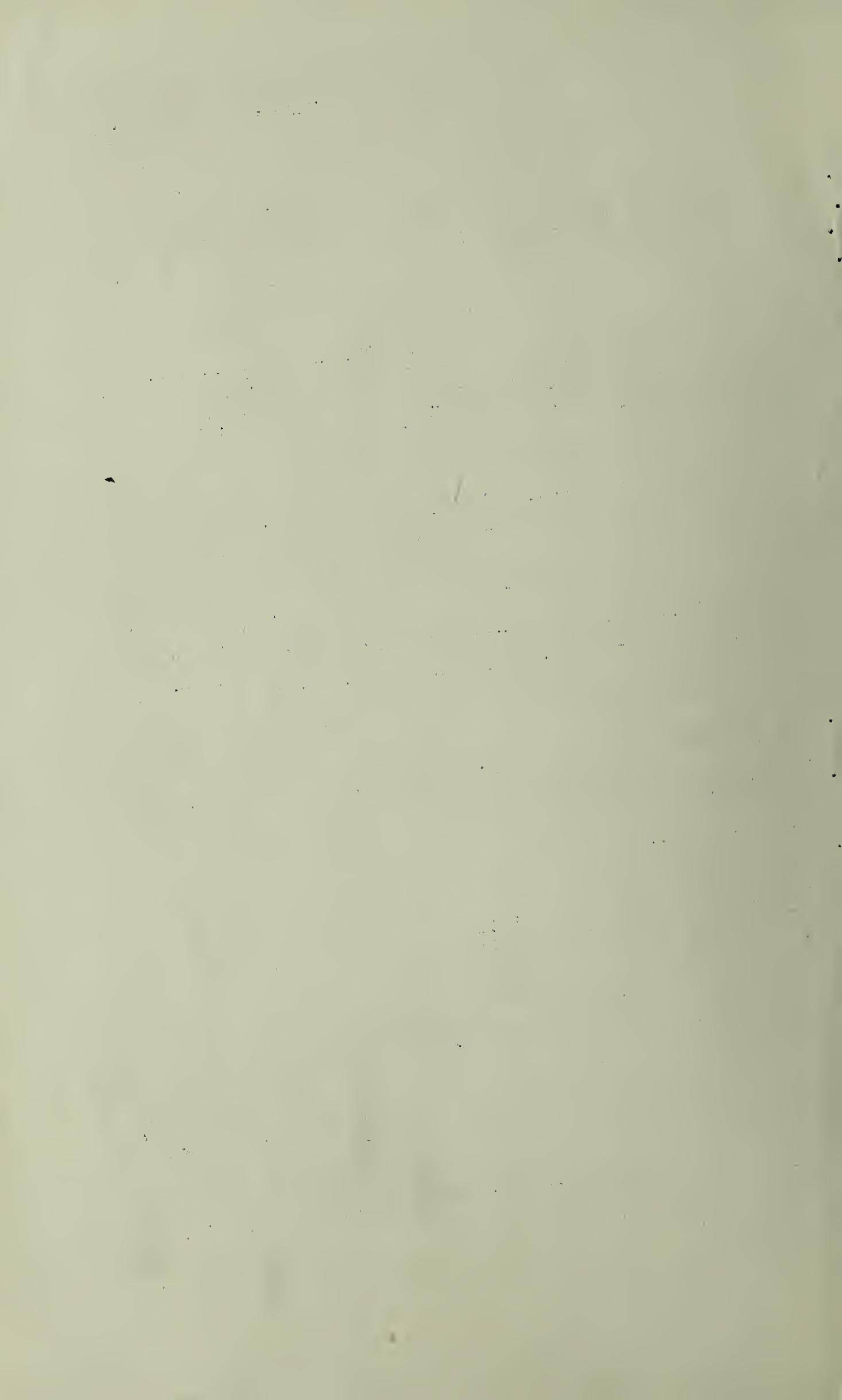
Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

	M.	F.	
Total	1	-	Death Rate all Infants per 1,000
Legitimate	1	-	notified Births = 9.9.
Illegitimate	-	-	

Deaths from Puerperal Causes ..... Nil  
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births ..... Nil.

Deaths

Total Deaths	51	56	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population = 15.13
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**CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES**

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough .....	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
5. Diphteria .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis Resp. Sys	2	1	3	2	4	1	1
7. Other Forms T.B.....	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
8. Syphilitic Diseases.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Influenza .....	-	-	3	1	-	2	-
10. Measles .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio Enceph.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Acute Inf. Enceph....	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
13. Cancer of Buc. Cav. & Oesoph (m) Uterus (F)	-	-	2	5	1	2	3
14. Cancer of Stomach....	-	-	1	5	3	2	5
15. Cancer of Breast.....	-	-	2	2	1	2	2
16. Cancer All Other Sites .....	18	14	8	11	8	5	12
17. Diabetes .....	-	3	-	-	-	2	-
18. Intracranial Vasc. Les.	8	12	7	8	10	12	10
19. Heart Disease .....	31	31	31	19	18	28	38
20. Other Dis. Circ.Sys...	11	5	6	4	6	3	7
21. Bronchitis .....	1	6	4	2	5	6	3
22. Pneumonia .....	4	9	6	2	6	4	4
23. Other Resp. Dis.....	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
24. Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum .....	2	3	2	2	-	1	1
25. Diarrhoea (Under 2 yrs)-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis .....	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
27. Other Digv. Dis.....	5	-	2	4	4	3	-
28. Nephritis .....	6	2	4	3	3	2	3
29. Puer. & Ptst. abrt. Sepsis -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
31. Premature birth.....	1	-	-	-	1	2	-
32. Con. mal. birth Inj. Inf. Dis.....	-	1	3	-	-	1	-
33. Suicide .....	2	-	1	1	-	1	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents -	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
35. Other violence.....	1	1	-	-	3	1	1
36. All other causes .....	21	19	19	10	14	12	12
 TOTALS .....	115	105	113	83	89	93	107



OTHER VITAL STATISTICS

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Population ...	6895	6948	7993	8058	7385	7097	7073
Rateable Value... £	30,959	31,956	32,027	32,027	32,482	32,690	32,780
Estimated Produce of Penny Wee £	1.29	1.31	1.36	1.36	1.33	1.39	1.39
<b>BIRTHS:-</b>							
Live Births ...	79	91	90	101	118	90	101
Legitimate ...	71	85	86	91	109	81	93
Illegitimate...	8	6	4	10	9	9	8
Total Births ...	74	85	89	101	118	92	105
Birth Rate ...	11.5	15.09	11.26	12.53	15.9	12.68	14.28
Birth Rate (England & Wales)	15.61	15	14.6	14.2	15.8	16.5	17.6
<b>DEATHS:-</b>							
Total Deaths...	115	105	113	83	89	93	107
Death Rate ...	12.4	11.2	11.31	10.3	12.05	13.1	15.13
Death Rate (England & Wales)	11.6	12.1	14.3	12.9	11.6	12.1	11.6
<b>INFANT MORTALITY:-</b>							
Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of age	2	1	3	1	1	3	1
Infantile Death Rate	25.3	10.53	31.58	9.35	8.47	33.33	9.9
Infantile Death Rate (England & Wales)	50	50	55	59	49	49	46
<b>MATERNAL MORTALITY:-</b>							
Maternal Deaths	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Maternal Death rate	-	-	-	-	8.47	-	-
Maternal Death rate (England & Wales)	2.97	2.82	2.16	2.23	2.01	2.29	1.93

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply  
Cowsheds & Dairies

No. of Persons on Register at end of 1944 .....	236
" Dairy Farms on Register at end of 1944 .....	236
" Dairy Farms Inspected during 1944 .....	130
" Inspections made for the purpose .....	150
" Notices served ..... 6 No. complied with .....	6

No samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination during the year.

There is no pasteurising plant in the district.

Meat.

All the slaughtering for West Dorset is done at a Slaughterhouse situated in the Parish of Symondsbury. The carcasses are inspected on every day that slaughtering takes place by a veterinary surgeon appointed by the four Districts concerned.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Water Supply

Bridport Water Works Company wholly or partly supplies the Parishes of Litton Cheney, Burton Bradstock, Bradpole, Walditch, Borthenhampton and Symondsbury with water which is satisfactory in quality but not always in quantity. This water has been continuously chlorinated since 1940, excepting the Walditch supply. The Charmouth supply, owned by the Rural District Council, is derived from five shallow sources, yielding approximately 45,000 gallons per day. This supply is also continuously chlorinated. The remaining Parishes are either without piped supplies or are partly supplied with piped water by private suppliers, and they are not of adequate capacity for use as permanent public supplies. Under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewage Act 1944, an obligation is placed on every Local Authority to provide a supply of wholesome water in pipes to every rural locality in those districts in which there are houses or schools, provided that it is practicable and at a reasonable cost (the latter to be decided by the Minister).

30 samples were taken for bacteriological analysis, including 14 from Charmouth, all the latter being very satisfactory except one. The samples from the Bridport Water Company's supply were also very satisfactory.

### Sewerage,

The drainage in the district is very unsatisfactory as, apart from those areas immediately adjacent to Bridport Borough, the remainder of the villages on a water carriage system discharge all the crude sewage into the nearest water course, with the result that all the latter are very grossly polluted. This is especially so at Charmouth, Chideock, Bradpole and Burton Bradstock.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area (From Sanitary Inspector's Report)

No. of Inspections for all purposes .....	226
No. of Informal Notices .....	28 Complied with 28
No. of Statutory Notices .....	5 " " 5
Inspections of Shops .....	10
" Foodshops .....	9
" Drains .....	38
" Various .....	169
	<u>Food Condemned.</u>
	Bacon 7 lbs.
	Flour 1 cwt.
	Meat (tinned) 48 lbs.

### HOUSING

Under the Housing of Agricultural Workers War Time Emergency Act, 4 new houses were erected at Askerswell. The rent charged is 9/6d per week including water rate. The Council own 4 acres of land for housing purposes at Watton also a site for 8 houses at Whitchurch and a site for 2 houses at Burton Bradstock.

During the year 51 houses were repaired after service of Notices and 4 cases of overcrowding were relieved. The number of persons concerned in such cases being 24.

The Local Authority own 87 houses and there are approximately 1600 working class houses in the district.

### RODENT CONTROL

In conjunction with the Beaminster R.D.C., a full time Rodent Officer was appointed. A survey of the built up areas in the district was made after which, those areas found to be infested were gone over with a view to the destruction of the rats.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1944

To jail Cases  
Removed to  
Hospital in  
District

DISEASE	Total Cases at All Ages	Under 1 Year	65 & Total Deaths						Over 65 Deaths	District
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	
Diphtheria .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas .....	6	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	2
Scarlet Fever .....	6	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	1	6
Puerperal Fever ....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
Dysentery .....	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lethargica .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia .....	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	2	-
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis .....	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Measles .....	15	-	-	4	1	-	6	2	-	1
Whooping Cough .....	26	-	4	5	2	3	8	3	-	1
TOTALS .....	71	-	4	9	3	5	22	7	1	14



INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1938 - 1941

Disease	1933 Cases:Deaths	1939 Cases:Deaths	1940 Cases:Deaths	1941 Cases:Deaths	1942 Cases:Deaths	1943 Cases:Deaths	1944 Cases:Deaths
Smallpox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria ...	-	-	1	4	1	-	-
Erysipelas ...	1	-	-	-	1	4	6
Scarlet Fever ...	9	-	6	5	3	3	6
Enteric Fever (Inc. Paratyphoid)	-	-	1	-	-	5	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever ...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	-	-	-	5	-	-	3
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentry ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia ...	1	-	5	-	1	2	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	-	-	5	1	4	6
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	-	-	2	1	3	4
Measles ...	Not known	-	93	-	225	56	21
Whooping Cough ...	Not known	4	-	47	-	2	10
TOTALS ...	18	-	21	2	207	73	71
			117	2		62	3
						10	-
						26	-
						15	-
						2	-
						26	-
						1	-

From the above table it will be seen that no cases of Diphtheria have occurred since 1940. The benefits of the intensive campaign against this disease are now being reaped. Tuberculosis has increased. A sharp outbreak of Measles occurred in 1940 and 1941 but, fortunately, was not of a severe type. Whooping Cough also showed an increase in 1941 and 1942. Fortunately no deaths occurred from these last two diseases.



TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases & Mortality 1944

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
25 - 35	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS .....	6	4	-	3	1	1	-	-

Particulars of Deaths

Two deaths, as follows:-

Pulmonary M. 46 years. Occupation unknown. Duration of disease  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years.  
" F. 21 " N.A.A.F.I. Canteen worker. Duration of disease  
3 months.

New Cases & Mortality 1938 - 1944

	CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1938	1	5	-	1	1	1	-	-
1939	1	3	1	-	-	1	1	-
1940	2	4	1	-	1	2	1	-
1941	1	2	-	1	1	1	-	-
1942	2	-	1	2	2	2	-	-
1943	6	6	-	4	-	1	-	-
1944	6	4	-	3	1	1	-	-
TOTALS .....	19	24	3	11	6	8	-	-



DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following tables show the position with regard to Diphtheria Immunisation in the Rural District of Bridport as at the end of 1944.

SCHOOLS

Name of School	Total on Register	Total Locals	Temp'y Residents	Total Locals	Total T. Resda Imm'd.	Total Locals Imm'd.	Percentage Immunised.
Visitation Convent .....	235	165	70	160	65	65	97%
Askerswell .....	23	23	--	19	--	--	83%
Bradpole .....	73	62	11	62	10	10	100%
Burton Bradstock .....	44	33	11	32	4	4	97%
Charmouth .....	81	61	20	55	19	19	91%
Chideock Council .....	32	32	--	29	--	--	91%
Chideock R. D. .....	35	29	6	28	6	6	95%
Loders .....	37	30	7	29	7	7	96%
Littton Cheney .....	32	25	7	25	7	7	100%
Pucknowle & Gwyre .....	45	39	6	35	6	6	90%
Shipton Gorge .....	19	18	1	17	1	1	94%
Symondsbury .....	46	45	1	44	1	1	96%
Stanton St. Gabriel .....	29	27	2	26	1	1	96%
Whitenchurch Canonorum..	32	24	8	19	3	3	79%
Woolverton & Wimborne .....	25	17	8	17	7	7	100%
The Limes, Charmouth ...	30	28	2	28	2	2	100%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>92%</b>

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

Month.	Special Clinics.		
	1st	Inj.	2nd.
January .....	-	.....	-
February .....	1	.....	-
March .....	3	.....	6
April .....	5	.....	4
May .....	1	.....	-
June .....	1	.....	1
July .....	2	.....	1
August .....	-	.....	-
September .....	3	.....	6
October .....	2	.....	2
November .....	4	.....	1
December .....	-	.....	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>21</b>

Number of children under 5 years of age in district .....	487
" " " " immunised .....	229
Percentage .....	47%

EVACUATION

During the war, evacuees from London and Southampton were billeted in the district. The following table shows the number on the Billeting Register at the end of the year:

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
430	503	427	245	135	194

